




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

Jo Ann Emerson
Chief Executive Officer

Hon. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: Response to Ex Parte Letters Filed by Midwest Energy Cooperative and Utilities Telecom
Council in WC Docket No. 10-90

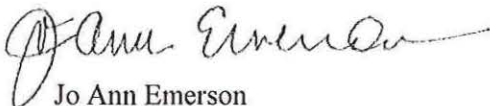
On December 9, 2013, both Midwest Energy Cooperative and the Utilities Telecom Council filed letters suggesting innovative ways to address the continuing lack of broadband services to rural America.

Midwest Energy Cooperative is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.¹ I write today to support Midwest Energy's filing and to encourage the FCC to consider Midwest's request to make Connect America Funds available to rural electric cooperatives.

Rural electric cooperatives operate under seven principles, one of which is Concern for Community. The community that Midwest Energy serves, as well as other unserved and underserved areas, deserves to have broadband service in order that the community may thrive and grow. Additionally, the many diverse rural communities across the country will also benefit when the other likeminded electric cooperatives seize this same opportunity. Midwest's proposal, that it have access to Connect America Funds will support Midwest's efforts to provide broadband to the members of its community.

I urge you to give positive consideration to Midwest's proposal in this docket.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Emerson".

Jo Ann Emerson
Chief Executive Officer, NRECA

¹ The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization dedicated to representing the national interests of cooperative electric utilities and the consumers they serve. NRECA is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric utilities that provide electric energy to over 42 million people in 47 states or 12 percent of electric customers.